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From: "InsideEPA.com" <epa-alerts@iwpnews.com>
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Subject: The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- October 19, 2012
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Latest News

In Bid For EPA Rules, Environmentalists Target State Coal Ash Programs

Environmentalists are filing administrative complaints with state agencies over alleged groundwater contamination by utility coal ash ponds, a strategy that aims to force changes to state ash disposal rules and highlight alleged insufficient state regulation of ash in order to put pressure on EPA to issue a strict ash disposal rule.

Industry Urges Court To Deny EPA Deference In Chesapeake Bay Lawsuit

Industry groups are urging a federal court to overturn EPA's landmark watershed cleanup plan, known as a total maximum daily load (TMDL), for the Chesapeake Bay, charging that the agency is not entitled to legal deference because its practice of setting separate load limits for point and nonpoint sources exceeds powers granted by the Clean Water Act (CWA), according to a just-filed brief.

Inhofe Says Post-Election EPA Rules Will Shutter Fossil Fuel Production

Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK) is accusing EPA of intentionally delaying a slew of rules until after the election so that the Obama administration can skirt accusations that it is seeking to shutter fossil fuel production and associated economic pain before voters go to the polls Nov. 6 to choose between President Obama and Gov. Mitt Romney.

GOP Blames EPA For Coal Sector Losses But New Study Tags Gas Prices

Republican candidates are stepping up their campaigns blaming EPA and its rules for contractions in the coal sector, a key employer in many swing states, despite recent findings showing that low natural gas prices are more likely to blame for the job losses than EPA rules.

EPA Delays Near-Road NO2 Monitoring Network, Citing Funding Constraints

EPA is proposing to delay its Jan. 1 deadline for states to launch a first-time near-road air quality monitoring network for its nitrogen dioxide (NO2) air standard, citing a lack of federal and state funding to pay for the network and suggesting an alternate approach that could delay the launch of some monitors until January 2017.

EPA Sets Deadline To Decide Whether To Revise 'Exceptional Events' Rule

EPA has set a self-imposed target of deciding by the end of the year whether to revise its contested rule on when states can exempt emissions from "exceptional events" such as wildfires from counting toward compliance with the Clean Air Act, possibly signaling a policy shift as the agency has not appeared to consider revising the rule.

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ACUS Draws Criticism

The Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS), an independent federal agency devoted to improving the administrative process, is drawing strong criticism from health and . . .

Citizens' Coalition Pitches 100-Day Energy Plan

A new coalition of environmentalists, public interest groups and other citizen organizations is pitching a 100-day clean energy agenda for the victor in November's presidential . . .

API Queries EPA Fracking Study Methods

The American Petroleum Institute (API) is reiterating criticism of EPA's draft report linking Wyoming groundwater contamination to hydraulic fracturing to raise questions about the methodology . . .

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